

SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
THE GOVERNING BOARD

December 16, 2010
Del Rey Yacht Club

1. Welcome and Introductions

At 9:45 AM, Chair Richard Bloom called the meeting to order. Introductions followed.

2. Order of Agenda

Order of agenda unchanged.

3. Public Comment

Roy van de Hoek commented by describing invertebrates in our ecosystem. He expressed concern for fresh water invertebrates in Malibu Lagoon, and whether they will survive in a salt water ecosystem.

David Faye introduced himself as a native Santa Monica resident. He asked if artificial reefs could be in Santa Monica Bay. He questioned if we should add this to our State of the Bay Plan.

Marcia Hanscom expressed concern about the restoration efforts of Malibu Lagoon and suggested alternative restoration solutions.

4. Approval of the October 21, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Minutes approved unanimously. (M: Sibert, S: Kaplan)

5. Reports from the Chair and Executive Committee

Bloom announced the promotion of Mary Small to Deputy Director of the California Coastal Conservancy, and offered his congratulations on behalf of the Governing Board members.

Mark Gold highlighted two items from the recent executive committee meeting—the CEQA process for Ballona Wetlands and the financial plan for SMBRC. Gold explained that the Army Corps of Engineers requested an additional two months to evaluate their portion of the CEQA work for Ballona Wetlands restoration project, and thus the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) would not be available until approximately April 2011. Additionally, Gold discussed new financial planning for the SMBRC and wanted to make the Governing Board aware of future discussions on this issue.

6. Report from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The TAC did not meet before the Governing Board meeting, thus no items to report.

7. Reports from the Executive Director and Staff

Shelley Luce, Executive Director, announced the SMBRF is named in a lawsuit, along with the California Coastal Commission, regarding the issue of a Coastal Permit granted for the Malibu Lagoon restoration project, by the Wetlands Defense Fund. Strategies to address the lawsuit may be discussed in a later closed meeting.

Luce described the success of the Ballona Wetlands Science & Research Symposium which took place at Loyola Marymount University on December 8, 2010. A full capacity crowd of almost 200 attendees heard presentations from wetland experts on restoration monitoring and regional wetland research from the Carpinteria Salt Marsh to the Tijuana Estuary. The symposium brought together scientists, stakeholders and regulators to learn about cutting edge research and monitoring and facilitate a dialog to further inform the restoration planning and monitoring at the Ballona Wetlands. One of the many highlights of the

symposium was a presentation by SMBRC Ecologist Karina Johnston describing the year one summary of the Ballona Wetlands Baseline Assessment Program.

Luce also gave a brief update on the Ballona Creek Rain Gardens project and issues with funding re-allocation from the Federal funding to the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The project will serve to treat stormwater from parking lots in Culver City before entering Ballona Creek.

Luce also announced the certification of the final EIR from the California Fish & Game Commission, created by the Blue Ribbon Task Force, for the proposed network of MPA in Southern California. An area included in the network is a rocky reef area of the City of Malibu. Monitoring of the MPAs will begin next year. Gold added that the Integrated Preferred Alternative (IPA) was selected by the California Fish & Game Commission. The IPA may lead to litigation from the Fishing Industry. Sibert expressed support for the MPA in Malibu on behalf of the City of Malibu.

Scott Valor, SMBRC staff member, distributed the sign-in sheet, and requested members make necessary changes to contact information.

8. Consideration of Adoption of 2011 Governing Board Meeting Calendar

Approved unanimously, without discussion. (M: Washburn; S: Zaldivar)

9. Consideration of Support of World Surfing Reserves

Michael Blum, President of the Malibu Surfing Association, presented on the Designation of Malibu as the first World Surfing Reserve at the October 2010 Governing Board Meeting. Luce asked Governing Board members to support a resolution for support of the World Surfing Reserve. Approved unanimously. (M: Sibert; S: Washburn)

10. Election of Governing Board Chair and Vice-Chairs

Valor coordinated the Governing Board election. Vice-Chairs elected by Governing Board: Mike Gin, Mark Gold, Mark Pestrella, Fran Pavley, Liz Crosson, and Fran Diamond. Governing Board Chair, Richard Bloom, was elected to his third consecutive term as Chair. Approved unanimously. (M: Nissman; S: Pestrella)

11. Presentation Regarding SMBRC Accomplishments in 2010

Luce highlighted the top three SMBRC accomplishments with a discussion of the MLPA Process, Ballona Wetlands Monitoring, and the LID and Rain Gardens project in Culver City.

The SMBRC was actively involved in establishing Marine Protected Areas up and down the California Coast, including the protection of key areas within the Santa Monica Bay Watershed. On December 15, the California Fish & Game Commission ratified the hard work of SMBRC and others by establishing over 15% of California coastal waters as reserves that will protect critical breeding habitat for aquatic species. SMBRC staff, led by the tireless work of Lia Protopapadakis, played key roles in gathering data, helping the Fish & Game Commission to make an informed decision. Luce thanked Protopapadakis for her dedication over the last 15 months compromising with stakeholders and following science guidelines from the TAC.

A critical part of the process to restore the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve was accomplished by SMBRC this year. Staff scientists completed the first year of a comprehensive physical and biological assessment of the entire Reserve the first such comprehensive assessment, and an important contribution to the overall restoration planning process.

The Santa Monica Bay Watershed lies in a relatively arid region, and water conservation has become a critical issue in this densely populated urban area. The SMBRC addressed the issue this year by co-sponsoring a symposium on rainwater harvesting and funding the Los Angeles rain barrel program, and by starting a project to install rain gardens along Ballona Creek to capture and filter runoff from commercial and residential neighborhoods. SMBRC also participated with the City of LA and many others to develop a Low Impact Development ordinance for the city, which was adopted by LA City Council this month.

12. Member Comment

Washburn distributed pictures from the completion of a recent Las Virgenes Creek trail, a project that took nearly 11 years to finish.

Nissman announced the County of Los Angeles has approved a ban on plastic bags.

Portia Cohen announced the City of Manhattan Beach has approved an alternative transportation pilot program.

Gold announced today, 12/16/10, is Day without a Bag.

Charles Caspary announced that Las Virgenes customers have continued to reduce their potable water supply and are on track reach their target goal by 2020.

Bloom announced Sara Wan was appointed Chair of the California Coastal Commission.

13. Announcement of next meeting date

The next Governing Board meeting will be held on February 17, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.

14. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:54 am.

Attendance:

Voting Members of the Governing Board:

Nate Kaplan (alternate for Bill Rosendahl), Councilmember, LA City Council District 11
Richard Bloom, SMBRC Chair, President, Bay Watershed Council (City Council Member, City of Santa Monica)
Portia Cohen, At-Large Member BWC (City Council Member, City of Manhattan Beach)
Fran Diamond, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles
Philip Friess (alternate to Steve Maguin), LA County Sanitation District
Mike Gin, South Bay Cities (City of Redondo Beach, Mayor)
Mark Gold, Public Member (Environmental/Public Interest), Santa Monica Baykeeper
Michael Mullin (alternate for Antonio Villargosa), Office of the Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Susan Nissman (alternate for Zev Yaroslavsky), LA County Board of Supervisors (Supervisor, 3rd District)
Mark Pestrella (alternate for Gail Farber), LA County Department of Public Works
John Sibert, Malibu Watershed Cities (City of Malibu)
Mary Small (alternate for Ann Notthoff), California State Coastal Conservancy
Dennis Washburn, At-Large Member BWC (City Council Member, City of Calabasas)
Enrique Zaldivar, LA City Department of Public Works

Non-Voting Members of the Governing Board:

Charles Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Bryant Chesney (alternate to Bob Hoffman), NOAA_NMFS Southwest Division
Santos Kreimann, LA County Department of Beaches & Harbors
Louise Rishoff (alternate for Julia Brownley), State Assemblymember, 41st District
Rorie Skei (alternate for Joe Edmiston), Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Catherine Tyrrell, President, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation

Commission Staff:

Joel Hanson
Michelle Kearney
Shelley Luce
Scott Valor
Sarah Woodard

Other Attendees, including other Bay Watershed Council Members:

Michael Blum, Malibu Surfing Association

Michael D'Annuncci, Consultant

Douglas Fay, Public

Marcia Hanscom, Sierra Club, Ballona Institute

Sona Kalapura, At-Large Member BWC (City Council Member, City of Manhattan Beach)

Dean Kubani, Bay Watershed Council

Hillary Moglen, LASQP

Kevin Powers, Charles Abbot Association, Stormwater Capture

Damian Skinner, City of Culver City

Wing Tam, LA City Department of Public Works

Robert Van de Hoek, Ballona Institute, Wetlands Defense Fund

David Warren, Sierra Club